



CATAWBA COUNTY

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Department of Social Services

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PRESS RELEASE

Catawba County Social Services Releases Work First Electing Plan 2007-2009 for Public Review

The Work First Planning Committee and the Catawba County Board of Social Services has released for public review the proposed Work First Electing County Plan for fiscal years 2007-2009.

On July 17, 2006 the Catawba County Board of Commissioners voted that Catawba County should pursue Electing County status. At that time, the commissioners appointed a planning committee to oversee the project.

All North Carolina counties have flexibility in developing services and programs to train and enable Work First families to move from welfare dependency to economic self-sufficiency. Counties chosen to be Electing Counties are given the additional flexibility to establish the fundamental eligibility requirements for the provision of cash assistance and to reduce their Maintenance of Effort (requirement to spend local dollars on the Work First effort.)

The public review period for the Electing County plan runs from September 18 through September 25, 2006. A copy of the Electing Plan is available at the Main County Public Library in Newton, Patrick Beaver Library (at the Reference Desk) and Ridgeview Library in Hickory, the Catawba County JobLink Career Center on East Campus of Catawba Valley Community College, and the Department of Social Services.

Following public review, the plan will go to the Board of Commissioners for final approval before being sent to the State prior to October 31, 2006.

"This plan has involved a lot of hard work and collaboration. It is comprised of input from the planning committee members, agency staff, and from county consumers and citizens," says Karen Heffner, program manager of Work First. "I believe we have developed a plan that will be beneficial to the citizens of Catawba County."

EVERY JOB HAS MEANING AND PURPOSE!